



General Assembly

January Session, 2009

Raised Bill No. 1054

LCO No. 3824

03824_____TRA

Referred to Committee on Transportation

Introduced by:
(TRA)

AN ACT PROHIBITING OPEN CONTAINERS OF ALCOHOL IN MOTOR VEHICLES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2009*) (a) For the purposes of
2 this section:

3 (1) "Alcoholic beverage" has the same meaning as provided in
4 section 30-1 of the general statutes;

5 (2) "Highway" has the same meaning as provided in section 14-1 of
6 the general statutes;

7 (3) "Open alcoholic beverage container" means a bottle, can or other
8 receptacle that (A) contains any amount of an alcoholic beverage, and
9 (B) (i) is open or has a broken seal, or (ii) the contents of which are
10 partially removed;

11 (4) "Passenger" means any occupant of a motor vehicle other than
12 the operator; and

13 (5) "Passenger area" means (A) the area designed to seat the

14 operator of and any passenger in a motor vehicle while such vehicle is
 15 being operated on a highway, or (B) any area of a motor vehicle that is
 16 readily accessible to such operator or passenger while such person is in
 17 such person's seating position, except that, in a motor vehicle not
 18 equipped with a trunk, "passenger area" does not include a locked
 19 glove compartment, the area behind the last upright seat closest to the
 20 rear of the motor vehicle or an area not normally occupied by the
 21 operator of or passengers in such motor vehicle.

22 (b) No person shall possess an open alcoholic beverage container
 23 within the passenger area of a motor vehicle while such motor vehicle
 24 is on any highway in this state.

25 (c) The provisions of subsection (b) of this section shall not apply to:
 26 (1) Any passenger in a motor vehicle designed, maintained and
 27 primarily used for the transportation of persons for hire, or (2) any
 28 passenger in the living quarters of a recreational vehicle, as defined in
 29 section 14-1 of the general statutes.

30 (d) Any person who violates the provisions of subsection (b) of this
 31 section shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2009</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To prohibit open containers of alcohol in motor vehicles.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]